

June 12, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
Member  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Representative DeGette:

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the world's first and largest organization focused on every aspect of high-quality, innovative cancer research from bench to bedside, is pleased to support H.R. 6, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures bill. We urge Members of the House to cosponsor the legislation and call upon the House leadership to move quickly to bring the bill to the floor for consideration.

In particular, we applaud your extraordinary efforts to ensure that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have the resources they need to carry out their respective missions in this time of unprecedented promise in medical research and innovation. Both the creation of a five-year, \$10 billion mandatory NIH Innovation Fund, and the authorization of additional funds for the NIH over the next three years through annual appropriations will go a long way to putting federal funding for medical research back on a path of sustained, predictable growth. More importantly, it will lead us to a brighter future for the millions of people whose lives have been touched by cancer and all diseases. We also commend your creation of a Cures Innovation Fund, which would provide an additional \$550 million over 5 years in mandatory funding for the FDA.

This funding is urgently needed, as the scientific opportunity and potential for advancement in areas like precision medicine has never been greater. **Therefore, it is critical that the proposed mandatory funding supplement, not supplant, regular appropriations for the NIH and the FDA and serve to enhance the agencies' base budgets in this time of extraordinary possibility.**

Your prioritization of funding for the NIH and FDA demonstrates your understanding of the critical role that NIH-funded research plays in improving our nation's health, sustaining our leadership in medical research, and remaining competitive in today's global information and innovation-based economy. In addition, it recognizes the parallel importance of the FDA receiving the resources it needs to carry out its regulatory and oversight functions and to recruit and retain highly-qualified staff with diverse expertise.

The AACR and its members appreciate your thoughtful and diligent efforts over the past year to convene community stakeholders from across the spectrum of medical research, health care, and patient advocacy to join in an open dialogue about the discovery, development and delivery of cures. Your willingness to listen and respond to the community's concerns, and to work in a

bipartisan fashion, is commendable. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that the NIH and FDA have the resources and tools they need to continue to spur innovation and deliver hope to patients and their family members all across our great nation and throughout the world.

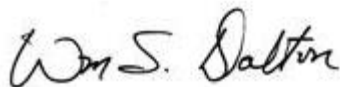
Sincerely,

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Jose Baselga, MD, PhD  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Foti'.

Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc)  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.S. Dalton'.

William S. Dalton, PhD, MD  
Chair, AACR Science Policy & Government Affairs Committee